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PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1992-1993

Revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions of the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1992

Fifth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/47/21), in which he submits revised estimates attributable to resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1992. During its consideration of the above-mentioned report, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General who provided additional information.

2. The Advisory Committee notes in paragraph 2 of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/47/21) that the total estimated requirements arising out of resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council amount to $2,158,900 for the biennium 1992-1993 and $5,132,800 for the biennium 1994-1995, totalling $7,291,700.

3. As shown in paragraph 3 of the Secretary-General's report, the total requirements cover both substantive ($3,183,700) and conference-servicing ($4,108,000) costs.

4. With regard to the conference-servicing costs, which were calculated on a full-cost basis for the biennium 1992-1993, ($1,244,200), the Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 4 of the Secretary-General's report that, since provisions have been made in the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 not only for meetings already known at the time of the budget preparation, but also for meetings or extensions of such meetings that may be authorized subsequently, no additional resources would be required.

5. As pointed out in paragraph 5 of the report of the Secretary-General, the non-conference-servicing costs for the biennium 1992-1993, arising from the resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council, are estimated at $914,700. Of that amount, $572,200 relate to the full cost of preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace (Council decision 1992/272 of 30 July 1992), for which an appropriation of $522,200 has already been approved in the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. Consequently, net requirements would amount to $392,500.

6. For reasons stated in paragraphs 6 and 7 of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/47/21), additional net requirements for activities derived from resolutions and decisions of the Economic and Social Council not provided for in the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 and requiring use of the contingency fund are estimated at $292,500.

7. As pointed out in paragraph 8 of the report of the Secretary-General, a total appropriation of $292,500 would therefore be required under sections 21 (Social development and humanitarian affairs), 23 (Economic Commission for Africa), 24 (Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific), 26 (Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean), 27 (Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia) and 28 (Human rights) of the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. Further details are provided in paragraphs 9 to 28 of the Secretary-General's report by resolution and relevant budget section.

8. A review of alternatives in the event that these estimates would exceed the balance available in the contingency fund is contained in paragraphs 29 to 31 of the Secretary-General's report. The Advisory Committee was informed that the above information was communicated to the legislative bodies concerned. The Advisory Committee was also informed that, as at 4 November 1992, the remaining available balance in the contingency fund is $15,237,100.

9. The Advisory Committee has no objection to the Secretary-General's estimate of additional requirements in 1992-1993, totalling $292,500, attributable to Economic and Social Council resolutions 1992/17 and 1992/18 of 30 July 1992 and Council decisions 1992/259 of 20 July 1992 and 1992/271 and 1992/272 of 30 July 1992. Accordingly, the Committee recommends that, at this stage, the Fifth Committee should take note of the above estimate on the understanding that such additional appropriations as may be requested by the Secretary-General will be submitted in the context of a consolidated statement to the General Assembly towards the end of its forty-seventh session, in accordance with Assembly resolution 42/211 of 21 December 1987, annex, section C, paragraphs 5 and 6.